



July 2019 - June 2022

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July 25, 2020

SECRETARY FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
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IATF-MEID
Malacanan, Manila

Sirs:

On behalf of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), we are privileged to submit its position paper involving Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs):

I. Clarification of definition of Locally Stranded Individuals

The current definition of Locally Stranded Individuals or LSIs¹, pursuant to section C of item III of DILG M.C. No. 2020-087 and sub-item 4.3 of item 3 of NTF Order No. 2020-02, reads:

“ Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs) - Foreign nationals or Filipino citizens (e.g. construction and domestic workers, tourists, students, among others) in a specific locality within the Philippines who have expressed intention to return to their place of residence/ home origin.”

Under section 5.1 of said NTF Order no. 2020-02, LSIs are categorized as follows:

“5.1. Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs):

5.1.1. Filipino local workers;

5.1.2. Students;

5.1.3. Local or foreign tourists;

5.1.4. Individuals stranded in various localities while in transit; and

5.1.5. Other stranded individuals.”

LSIs are similarly classified under letter c of item III of DILG Memorandum Circular no. 2020-087.

It is recommended that the aforementioned definition of LSIs be revised to read as follows:

Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs) – Foreign nationals or Filipino citizens (e.g. construction and domestic workers, tourists, students among others) in a specific locality within the Philippines who have expressed intention to return to their place of

¹ NTF Against Covid-19 Order No. 2020-02 signed by DND Sec. Delfin N. Lorenzana and Memorandum Circular No. 2020-087 signed by DILG Sec. Eduardo M. Ano.

residence/home origin where the family of the LSI presently resides. Family means the spouse (husband or wife) of LSI and his/her children, if any, and if single, his/her parent/s and siblings, if any.

The reason for the amendment is that the present definition of LSI has been misused because of broadness. It can be interpreted to include persons who are not actual residents in the receiving LGU.

II. Simplification and improvement of procedure on departure from LGU of origin.

The procedure regarding the departure of the LSI from the LGU of origin is found in sections 7.1 and 7.2 of NTF Against Covid-19 Order Number 2020-02.

To streamline the process, avoid the unannounced arrival of LSIs and prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the receiving LGUs, the LPP proposes the adoption of the following procedure:

1. The LSI shall communicate his or her request or application for admission to the Focal Person (FP) of the receiving LGU whether by call, text message, email or other means, stating his full name and his address in his barangay. For easy reference, the list of the FPs of each provincial government shall be attached to the IATF or DILG directive and given ample dissemination.
2. The concerned FP shall verify whether the LSI falls under the definition of LSI. If the inquiry is in the affirmative, the FP shall immediately notify the LSI that he/she is eligible and he/she has to comply with the requirements of admission, to wit:
 - a. Certificate from any DOH accredited testing facility or from the provincial, city or municipal health office of the LGU of origin that the LSI is PCR or RDT negative or non-reactive and is not a suspect, probable or confirmed Covid-19 case. The expenses for the test shall be borne by the LSI. If applicant is an indigent, he/she can avail of the financial assistance from either the LGU of origin or the receiving LGU.
 - b. Medical Certificate from the health office of the LGU of origin stating that:
 1. That LSI is neither a contact, suspect, probable or confined Covid-19 case.
 2. That LSI completed a 14-day quarantine based on the quarantine standards set by the DOH;
 3. That if LSI was previously infected, that he/she was tested negative through RT-PCR twice.
 - c. Undertaking and Commitment signed by the LSI stating that he/she agrees: a.) to comply with all the national and local protocols relating to the Covid-19 while staying or

residing in the receiving LGU; b.) to be subjected to either PCR or RDT test in the receiving LGU at his/her expense unless he/she is an indigent; c.) to be subjected to a 14-day quarantine; and d.) to stay or reside in the receiving LGU for at least two (2) months from date of arrival and e.) to comply with the penalty or sanctions prescribed by the ordinances of the receiving LGU.

- d. Travel Authority from JTF CV Shield or the chief of police of the LGU of origin.
3. Once all the 4 requirements are met, the LSI shall notify the FP of the receiving LGU and request a Notice of Acceptance from receiving LGU which will indicate the date and estimated time of admission set by the FP.
4. Upon arrival at the receiving LGU, the LSI shall submit the four (4) prescribed documents to the LTF at the port or the border of the receiving LGU.
5. Upon entry, all national and local health or safety protocols must be obeyed by the LSI.

LPP requests that the foregoing proposed amendments be incorporated in the affected provisions of NTF Covid-19 Order no. 2020-02 and DILG Memorandum Circular no. 2020-087.

III. Moratorium on entry of LSIs.

The LPP also recommends that provinces and cities be given a 2-week moratorium every month before the entry of another batch of LSIs for the following reasons:

1. Adequate period to sanitize the LGUs' holding and receiving areas.
2. Avoid the heavy influx of LSIs and returning overseas Filipinos (ROFs) that overwhelms the quarantine facilities and personnel of receiving LGUs.
3. Opportunity to put frontliners of receiving LGUs exposed to Covid-19 under quarantine and to provide a respite for volunteers and other medical personnel.
4. Allow time for contact tracing.

LPP hopes that the foregoing proposals will merit your kind consideration and immediate approval.

Very truly yours,


GOV. PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.
National President